

Spring



# Western Wayne School District EverGreen Elementary

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT—March 2018



## Words From Mr. Pidgeon, Principal



Do you want to spend time with your children, build their reading skills, and help them to love books? You can do all these and more when you read aloud to them. Here are a few suggestions.

### Read regularly:

- Part of your child's nightly homework is to read. Try to read to your child or have them read to you every day.
- ⇒ You might aim for 10-15 minutes of bedtime reading for a peaceful end to the day.
- ⇒ Bring along a book, and read to them during a sibling's sports practice.
- ⇒ Curl up together with a book when you get home from work.

### Let them participate:

Ask your child to turn the pages while you read. Also, let them finish sentences that rhyme or fill in words that they know. Go slowly so they have time to understand the story and look at the illustrations. They will enjoy read-aloud time more if they play an active role.



### Be playful:

You can use different voices for different characters (a high, squeaky voice for a mouse or a deep voice for a horse) Your child will love it when you read aloud with them because it's your time together.

*Mr. Pidgeon*



## Functional Learning Support

The students have worked diligently and given their PASA tests their very best effort. Many enjoyed being movie stars and getting to use iPads to take their tests this year! Students were tested in the areas of Math and ELA, which now includes not only reading but writing skills. Additionally, our 4<sup>th</sup> grade students have also completed the Science assessment.

We are so very proud of all our students during this month of testing. May the luck of the Irish and all the hard work the students have been doing all year show on our tests and for the rest of the year...may our joys be as deep as the ocean and our troubles as light as its foam. ☺

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## Pre-Kindergarten

Will March come in like a lion or lamb? How will it go out? These are two questions that Pre-Kindergarten students will ponder as they observe the weather each day. We will also be conducting science experiments, exploring measurement, patterns, and graphs.

Letter and numeral identification will be important skills for Kindergarten. Please continue to work with your child on these skills. Try to make practice a fun hands-on time! Use items like clay and play dough to form letters and numbers.

We will be reading several silly Dr. Seuss books that will help to reinforce rhyming. (*Words that sound the same at the middle and end of the word*) Please strengthen rhyming with your little one at home. Many children's books incorporate rhyming. Reading, reciting and singing nursery rhymes are an excellent way to help a child get ready to read such as Little Miss Muffet, Old Mother Hubbard, and Jack and Jill. When a child chants a rhyme repeatedly, he develops key pre-reading skills such as the ability to hear the distinct sounds that make up words, discern sound and word patterns and broaden his vocabulary. Try to find opportunities to sing and read rhymes with your child. Try acting out some nursery rhymes. It is a fun way to review the rhymes!



## Kindergarten

Winter sure has been wild! However, spring is right around the corner. Our kindergarteners are working with lions, lambs, raindrops, umbrellas, rainbows, and kites to help strengthen their reading, phonics, and math skills.

March brings Kindergarten a new reading theme. The stories in this theme will teach the children how to grow plants and how to get food from plants.

In math, the students continue to work on number bonds. St. Patrick's Day brings shamrocks, leprechauns, and pots of gold to help our kindergarteners practice addition, and counting by fives and tens along with other math skills.

Please continue to practice sight words with your child every night. Don't forget to read every evening and sign your child's reading log. Your support and encouragement are so important for your child's success in school!

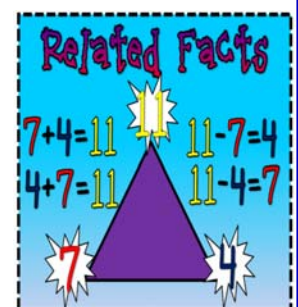
Spring, is almost here but, remember to dress your child appropriately. Hats, gloves, warm coats, snow pants, and boots are still needed for "Wellness".

## 1st Grade

With the spring weather fast approaching, first graders are looking forward to many new and exciting things happening. In reading, we are finishing up the 4<sup>th</sup> book in the new reading series. We have been learning about long vowels, blends, digraphs, and vowel teams. Please continue to practice these skills with your child at home. Sight words are also very important to your child being a successful reader. We also are continuing to have the students practice their Oral Reading Fluency. Students practice reading a passage and are timed for one minute. The students are checked to see how many words they can read in that time. Students are expected to be able to read 69 words per minute with 98% accuracy by May. Please continue practicing at home.

In math, we are focusing on addition and subtraction facts. We are also continuing to learn about measurement, geometry, and time. Students are preparing for standardized tests they will take in April called "Terra Nova." It is important that your child be in school on time for these days.

Please continue to read with your child for at least 15 minutes each night.



## 2nd Grade



In our reading theme entitled *Heroes and Helpers* we are learning about courage, and when we have courage, we believe that we can be brave and face something even if we are afraid. How helping others make you feel good. Why it is important to keep trying even if something is difficult to do. Why reading and writing are important. AND... what makes someone a hero.

In grammar we have been building on our knowledge of nouns and their different uses in writing. We have looked at how we can use pronouns such as: I, he, she, it and they in the place of proper nouns. We have also been introduced the verb be.

Second graders are building their math fluency in two-digit subtraction within 100 and applying that fluency to one and two step word problems within 100. They are also developing and understanding of addition and subtraction of multi-digit numbers within 200. Please continue to have your second grader practice their math facts each night, as this is such a vital component to being able to add two or three digit numbers. We are aiming for automaticity. If you notice your child is counting on their fingers to solve a math fact, try to help them study the facts they are struggling with in isolation.

On Valentine's Day we visited prekindergarten and helped them read their cards. It was so much fun spending time with them, making new friends and seeing our past teachers.

Our second graders have grown so much, but still have a long way to go. Please continue to have your child read aloud for at least fifteen minutes each night. This will ensure that they are making gains in their oral reading fluency as we aim towards the spring benchmark of 111 word count per minute. Once again, thank you for all you do to make your child a success!

## 3rd Grade

We have been working very diligently in the third grade We didn't even stop to notice how quickly our school year has been flying by. Our third graders have persevered through all subjects and are producing such amazing work.

We have begun our next reading unit titled "Going Places." Students are discovering that people as well as things are going places and making changes. We are taking a close look at the interactions that take place when journeys are made. In class, we are talking about how people and animals can prepare for long trips.

In math, students are working through solving a variety of real-life word problems involving area and perimeter using all four mathematic operations. They will be able to reason about composing and decomposing polygons using tangrams. Then we will be completing an extensive review of our math skills that we have learned thus far.

Our Science investigations are currently focusing on experimenting with water. We are examining the three forms of water. We are also exploring the properties of objects and whether they sink or float when placed in water. The students love acting as scientists performing experiments in our science lab.

As a reminder, we ask that your child continues to complete his/her homework each night, along with reading 15-30 minutes. Please review all math and reading packets that are sent home with your child to help reiterate what they have learned throughout the year and have practiced during the school day. As always, thank you for what you do at home.

## 4th Grade

Fourth graders began a new reading unit called, Unbreakable Spirit. In this theme, they identified character traits in historical fiction, experienced memorable characters in myths and folk tales, and drew conclusions in sequential informational texts. The selections in this theme had cross-curricular applications to social studies. Text dependent analysis dovetailed nicely with the genres that unit four offered for writing.

Fourth grade students conducted investigations about the properties of hot, cold, and frozen water, and water vapor. They formed hypotheses, made observations, recorded data, and wrote summaries and conclusions. They also studied motion and energy in the physical sciences.

Fourth grade math students focused their attention on understanding angle measurement, fractions and mixed numbers. They utilized all their past, memorized math facts to manipulate fractions. Perhaps your student understood the concept but made computation errors. Now is the time for students to study multiplication and division facts before they fall too far behind. A pack of flashcards and a little practice every day go a long, long way! Thanks for your help. Congratulations to the many students who have completed both multiplication and division fact mastery already!



5th Grade

Spring is around the corner and 5<sup>th</sup> graders couldn't be happier! There is so much to look forward to this time of year.

Fifth grade is in the midst of reading about stories that involve the visual arts, creative inventions, creative writing and interactions between human and animals. At this same time the students are learning how to write a biography concerning a person they admire. Although many of our students have chosen to write about famous people, everyday people, such as parents of our students, lend themselves to great biographies.



PSSA tests will be administered in April. Our fifth grade students are willing to do their best to demonstrate all that they have learned in reading, math and writing throughout their time at EverGreen Elementary.

We are ready to spring into a successful fourth quarter. We thank all parents for the support and encouragement that you have given your children throughout the year. Together we can help our fifth graders "blossom" to be the best that they can be.



Title I

With the winter DIBELS benchmark behind us, we thought this would be a good time to remind everyone of our Title I local assessments. Local assessments are tests that are given to every student in that particular grade three times per year, once in the fall, winter and spring. These assessments help us to chart the growth of the Title I students over time and also compare them to their peers.

First Grade local assessments consist of the DIBELS Nonsense Word Fluency subtest, the DIBELS Oral Reading Fluency subtest, and a cloze procedure. We use the Nonsense Word Fluency subtest to help us determine the student's ability to decode or sound out unknown words. The Oral Reading Fluency subtest measures the student's number of words read correctly in one minute on a first grade leveled passage. Finally, the cloze procedure is a comprehension assessment. These are based on a story the students have read in their classroom anthology. The test consists of sentences from the story with blank spaces. Students have to pick the correct response for the blank space among three answer choices.

Second grade local assessments are similar in that we use the DIBELS Oral Reading Fluency subtest and a cloze procedure. However, to measure the students' phonics abilities, we use the Elementary Spelling Inventory. This is a spelling test of twenty-five words with various phonics elements.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact your child's Title I teacher. Happy Reading!



ENROLLMENT

Early Intervention	20
Pre-Kindergarten	58
Kindergarten	82
First Grade	76
Second Grade	73
Third Grade	83
Fourth Grade	72
Fifth Grade	<u>98</u>
	562
Outside Placement	<u>+ 3</u>
Total	565